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A QUALITY COMIC PUBLICATION

BUCCANEERS

SWASHBUCKLING PIRATE YARNS OF ADVENTURE ON THE BOUNDING MAIN!

MAY No.21

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Quilla, mysterious island priestess, baits a death trap for **CAPTAIN DARING**

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BE A SUCCESS AS A RADIO-TELEVISION TECHNICIAN

TWO FREE BOOKS SHOW HOW MAIL COUPON

America's Fast Growing Industry Offers You...

I TRAINED THESE MEN AT HOME



OWNS SUCCESSFUL BUSINESS
"Today I am considered an expert Radio-Television Technician. I have four employees working in my shop. Repair business has doubled."—PAUL MILLER, Toledo, Ohio.



RADIO ENGINEER ABC NETWORK
"4 years ago, I was a bookkeeper with a hand-to-mouth salary. Now I am a Radio Engineer with key station of the ABC network."—NORMAN H. WARD, Ridgefield Park, New Jersey.



$5 TO $10 WEEK IN SPARE TIME
"While learning, made $5 to $10 a week in spare time. Now have a spare time shop in my home and earn as high as $25 a week."—LEANDER ARNOLD, Pontiac, Michigan.



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"For the past two years, I have been operating my own Servicing business. Net profit, $6,850. N.R.I. training made it possible."—PHILIP G. BROGAN, Louisville, Kentucky.



GETS FIRST JOB THROUGH N.R.I.
"My first job, with KDLR, was obtained for me by your Graduate Service Dept. Am now Chief Engineer, Police Radio Station WQOX."—T. S. NORTON, Hamilton, Ohio.



SEES PROFIT IN RADIO-TELEVISION
"I am operating my own Radio Sales and Service business. With FM and Television, we are looking forward to a very profitable future."—ALBERT PATRICK, Tampa, Florida.



SPARE TIME SERVICE PAYS WELL
"Work only in spare time at Radio and average about $40 a month. Knew nothing about Radio before enrolling with N.R.I."—SAMUEL T. DEWALD, St. Clair, Pennsylvania.

1. EXTRA MONEY IN SPARE TIME

As part of my servicing course, I send you SPECIAL BOOKLETS starting the day you enroll that show how you can make $5, $10 or more a week EXTRA fixing neighbors' Radios in spare time while learning. Tester you build with parts I send helps.

2. GOOD PAY JOB

Your next step is a good job installing and servicing Radio-Television sets, or becoming boss of your own Radio-Television Sales and Service Shop, or getting a good job in a Broadcasting Station. In 1945, there were 943 Radio Stations. Today, about 2,700 are on the air! Result—thousands of qualified men stepped into good jobs. Then add developments in FM, Two-Way Radio, Police, Aviation, Marine, Micro-wave Relay Radio. Think what this means! New jobs, more jobs, good pay for qualified men.

3. BRIGHT FUTURE

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You Practice Servicing or Communications with MANY KITS

I've trained hundreds of men with no previous experience to be successful TECHNICIANS. I will train you, too. Or now you can enroll for my NEW practical course in Radio-Television Communications. Train for your FCC operator's or technician's license. You learn Radio-Television theory from clear, illustrated lessons in my tested home study courses.

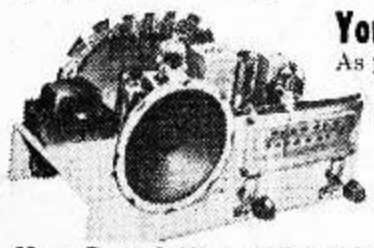
As part of both my Servicing and Communications course, I send you MANY KITS of modern equipment that "bring to life" theory you learn. Building circuits, conducting experiments with them, introducing and repairing defects, gives you valuable, practical experience. (Some of the equipment you get is shown below.) Everything I send is yours to keep.

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Coupon entitles you to ACTUAL LESSON on Radio Servicing with many pictures and diagrams plus my 64-page book, "HOW TO BE A SUCCESS IN RADIO-TELEVISION" . . . both FREE. See what my graduates are doing and earning. Send coupon today. J. E. SMITH, President, Dept. ODA3, National Radio Institute, Pioneer Home Study Radio School, Washington 9, D. C.

VETERANS

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You Build This TRANSMITTER

As part of my New Communications course, I send parts to build this low-power broadcasting Transmitter that shows how to put a station "on the air." Perform procedures demanded of Broadcast Station operators, conduct many tests, experiments. It's yours to keep.



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Mail me Sample Lesson and 64-page Book about How to Win Success in Radio-Television—both FREE. (No salesman will call. Please write plainly.)

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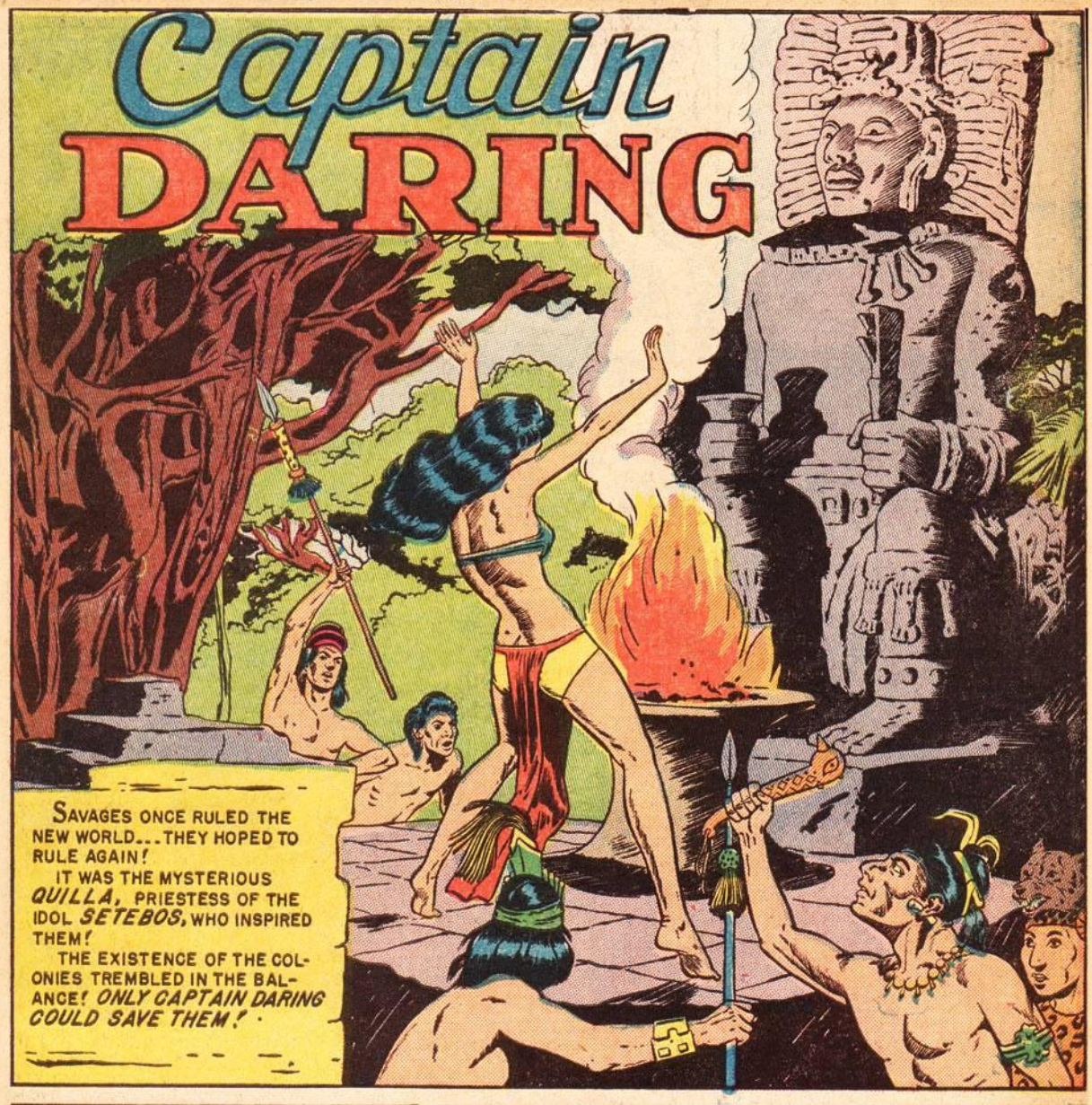
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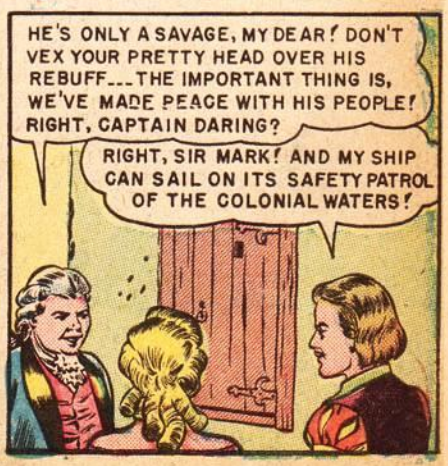
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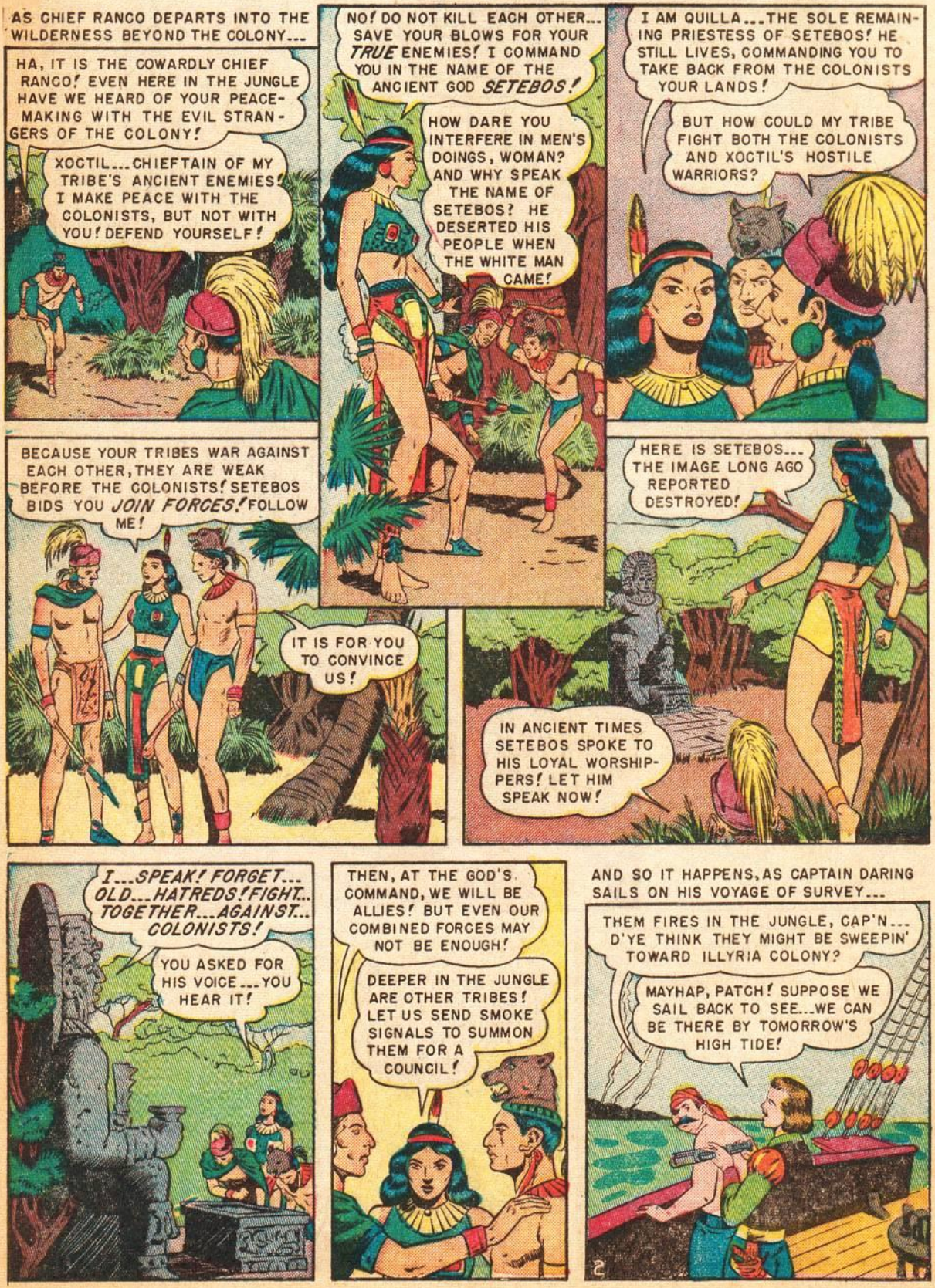
Captain DARING










AS CHIEF RANCO DEPARTS INTO THE WILDERNESS BEYOND THE COLONY...
HA, IT IS THE COWARDLY CHIEF RANCO! EVEN HERE IN THE JUNGLE HAVE WE HEARD OF YOUR PEACE-MAKING WITH THE EVIL STRANGERS OF THE COLONY!
XOCTIL...CHIEFTAIN OF MY TRIBE'S ANCIENT ENEMIES! I MAKE PEACE WITH THE COLONISTS, BUT NOT WITH YOU! DEFEND YOURSELF!
NO! DO NOT KILL EACH OTHER... SAVE YOUR BLOWS FOR YOUR TRUE ENEMIES! I COMMAND YOU IN THE NAME OF THE ANCIENT GOD SETEBOS!
HOW DARE YOU INTERFERE IN MEN'S DOINGS, WOMAN? AND WHY SPEAK THE NAME OF SETEBOS? HE DESERTED HIS PEOPLE WHEN THE WHITE MAN CAME!
I AM QUILLA...THE SOLE REMAINING PRIESTESS OF SETEBOS! HE STILL LIVES, COMMANDING YOU TO TAKE BACK FROM THE COLONISTS YOUR LANDS!
BUT HOW COULD MY TRIBE FIGHT BOTH THE COLONISTS AND XOCTIL'S HOSTILE WARRIORS?
BECAUSE YOUR TRIBES WAR AGAINST EACH OTHER, THEY ARE WEAK BEFORE THE COLONISTS! SETEBOS BIDS YOU JOIN FORCES! FOLLOW ME!
IT IS FOR YOU TO CONVINCE US!
HERE IS SETEBOS... THE IMAGE LONG AGO REPORTED DESTROYED!
IN ANCIENT TIMES SETEBOS SPOKE TO HIS LOYAL WORSHIPPERS! LET HIM SPEAK NOW!
I...SPEAK! FORGET... OLD...HATREDS! FIGHT... TOGETHER...AGAINST... COLONISTS!
YOU ASKED FOR HIS VOICE...YOU HEAR IT!
THEN, AT THE GOD'S COMMAND, WE WILL BE ALLIES! BUT EVEN OUR COMBINED FORCES MAY NOT BE ENOUGH!
DEEPER IN THE JUNGLE ARE OTHER TRIBES! LET US SEND SMOKE SIGNALS TO SUMMON THEM FOR A COUNCIL!
AND SO IT HAPPENS, AS CAPTAIN DARING SAILS ON HIS VOYAGE OF SURVEY...
THEM FIRES IN THE JUNGLE, CAP'N... D'YE THINK THEY MIGHT BE SWEEPIN' TOWARD ILLYRIA COLONY?
MAYHAP, PATCH! SUPPOSE WE SAIL BACK TO SEE...WE CAN BE THERE BY TOMORROW'S HIGH TIDE!


MEANWHILE, AS NIGHT FALLS...
THE TRIBESMEN HAVE GATHERED FROM NEAR AND FAR! WHAT IS YOUR MESSAGE FROM SETEBOS, O PRIESTESS QUILLA?
HE BIDS ME DANCE THE ANCIENT DANCE OF WAR!
THE MYSTERIOUS PRIESTESS BEGINS HER DANCE...
BEAT THE DRUM! THUS DID OUR ANCESTORS SIGNAL THE COMING OF BATTLE!
WILDLY SHE DANCES, SETTING AFLAME THE WARLIKE SPIRIT OF THE TRIBESMEN...
WAR! WAR! WAR!
YES, WAR! WE'LL SWEEP THE INVADERS BACK INTO THE SEA FROM WHICH THEY CAME!
WE ATTACK AT DAWN! SINCE THEIR PEACE TREATY WITH RANCO, THEY WILL KEEP NO WATCH!
QUILLA IS RIGHT! NO SENTRIES KEEP WATCH AT THE STOCKADE, BUT...
I WAKENED EARLY, THINKING OF CAPTAIN DARING! I WONDER IF HE THINKS OF ME?
ZZZIP!
THUNK!
THE NATIVES... THEY ARE CHARGING FROM THE JUNGLE!
WAKEN, EVERY MOTHER'S SON OF YOU! MAN THE STOCKADE... OPEN FIRE!
3

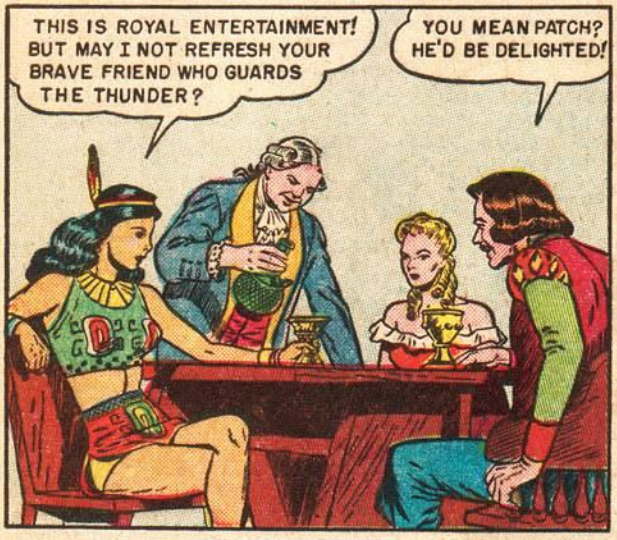

WE CLOSED THE GATE JUST IN TIME!
THEY COME IN MIGHTY HORDES! SUMMON EVERY COLONIST WHO CAN FIRE A GUN!
THE JUNGLE RINGS WITH WAR CRIES---
CHARGE, BRAVE WARRIORS!
QUICK, BEFORE THEY GATHER TO OPPOSE US! CLIMB THEIR STOCKADE AND SLAY THEM ALL!
BUT THE MORNING TIDE BRINGS CAPTAIN DARING WITH IT---
I CAN SEE WHAT'S HAPPENING--- A MASS OF YELLING SAVAGES ON THE LANDWARD SIDE, TRYING TO STORM THE STOCKADE!
SAY YOU SO, CAP'N? I'LL DOUBLE CHARGE THIS GOOD GUN AND AIM HER! THEN...
INTO THE THICK OF THEM, PATCH --- FIRE!
AYE, AYE, SIR!
BAM
SHOT FROM THE GREAT FIRE-WEAPONS ON THAT SHIP, SETEBOS CURSE IT!
IT IS THAT DEVIL, CAPTAIN DARING! BID THE WARRIORS RETREAT INTO THE JUNGLE!
THE SOUNDS OF BATTLE DIE AWAY AS...
A THOUSAND WELCOMES, CAPTAIN DARING! THOSE CANNON OF YOURS SPOKE IN OUR FAVOR JUST IN TIME! THE SAVAGES HAVE RUN FOR IT!
PERHAPS NOT FOR LONG, SIR MARK! MY GUNNERS STAND BY ABOARD MY SHIP, AND I'M LANDING A PARTY TO HELP HOLD THE STOCKADE!
4


FROM THE GUN PORTS WE SAW A MIGHTY HOST OF NATIVES--- THEY WERE LED BY XOCTIL AND RANCO!
PLAGUE TAKE ME, THAT'S ODD! XOCTIL'S PEOPLE FOUGHT RANCO'S EVEN BEFORE THE FIRST COLONISTS LANDED AT ILLYRIA!
ISN'T IT TRUE, SIR, THAT THE NATIVE TRIBES ALWAYS WARRED TOGETHER? 'TWAS THAT MADE IT POSSIBLE FOR US TO COLONIZE HERE!
TRUE, CAPTAIN DARING! BUT THEY HAVE BEEN DRIVEN BACK! I DOUBT IF THEY'LL BE SO BOLD AS TO CHALLENGE AGAIN!
BUT THE NATIVES HAVE NOT RETREATED FAR---
IF SETEBOS TRULY WANTED US TO FIGHT, WHY DID HE NOT CAUSE US TO WIN?
I THINK HE IS ABOUT TO ANSWER THAT QUESTION HIMSELF!
COLONISTS... WILL... RELAX! USE... HEADS... AS... WELL... AS... HANDS... TO... SMASH... THEM!
SETEBOS IS ALL-KNOWING, AS USUAL! WE MUST PLAN A CLEVER TRICK TO DEFEAT THEM! SEND A MESSENGER TO THEM, PRETENDING PEACE---
NEITHER RANCO NOR I CAN BE THAT MESSENGER! THE COLONISTS SAW US LEADING OUR WARRIORS AGAINST THEM!
NO, IT WILL NEED A WISER AND COOLER HEAD--- I, MYSELF, WILL GO! HARK YOU TO MY ORDERS!
AS I RUN TOWARD THEIR GATE, SEND SHAFTS AFTER ME! THUS WILL THEY THINK YOU WISH MY DEATH, AND WILL LET ME IN!
WELL PLANNED, QUILLA! TRULY, SETEBOS INSPIRES YOU!


QUILLA PUTS HER PLAN INTO ACTION...
OPEN THE GATE! THE NATIVES ARE PURSUING A FUGITIVE!
WHAT HAPPENS, FAIR STRANGER? ANOTHER ATTACK FROM THE JUNGLE?
I OVERHEARD THEIR PLANS, AND SPED TO WARN YOU!
EGAD, WE THANK YOU FOR YOUR FRIENDSHIP! WHAT BRINGS A NATIVE PRINCESS TO JOIN OUR SIDE?
MY ADMIRATION FOR CAPTAIN DARING! EVEN IN OUR REMOTE VILLAGE, THE FAME OF HIS COURAGE HAS PENETRATED!
LOVELY AS A SAVAGE GODDESS, IS SHE NOT, CAPTAIN DARING? BUT I DISLIKE HER!
GREAT GOVERNOR, THE CHIEFTAINS OF THE ENEMY HOST SAY THEY WILL DELAY THEIR NEXT ATTACK UNTIL DAWN, AS BEFORE! UNTIL THAT TIME, YOU MAY RELAX YOUR GUARD!
LET THE MEN REST! WE ARE TOO FEW TO KEEP GUARD WHEN IT IS NOT NECESSARY!
YOU PUT US IN YOUR DEBT, BRAVE ONE! IN WHAT WAY MAY WE REWARD YOU?
I HAVE HEARD TALES OF YOUR MIRACLES... THUNDER AND LIGHTNING AT YOUR COMMAND...
YOU MEAN GUN-POWDER! PERHAPS YOU'D LIKE TO SEE OUR ARSENAL!
UNCLE MARK, CAPTAIN DARING TRUSTS THAT SAVAGE BEAUTY TOO EASILY!
A BEAUTY SHE IS INDEED, DOLORES! WHICH IS WHY YOU DON'T TRUST HER --- OR CAPTAIN DARING!


YOUR THUNDER MAGIC IS INSIDE? BUT WHAT IF AN ENEMY TAMPERS?
PATCH, MY TRUSTED FRIEND, IS EVER ON WATCH! NO ENEMY COULD GET PAST HIM!
GUNPOWDER


NOW, FAIR FRIEND FROM THE WILDERNESS, IF WE MAY ENTERTAIN YOU---
I AM HONORED! CAPTAIN DARING, ESCORT ME!


THIS IS ROYAL ENTERTAINMENT! BUT MAY I NOT REFRESH YOUR BRAVE FRIEND WHO GUARDS THE THUNDER?
YOU MEAN PATCH? HE'D BE DELIGHTED!

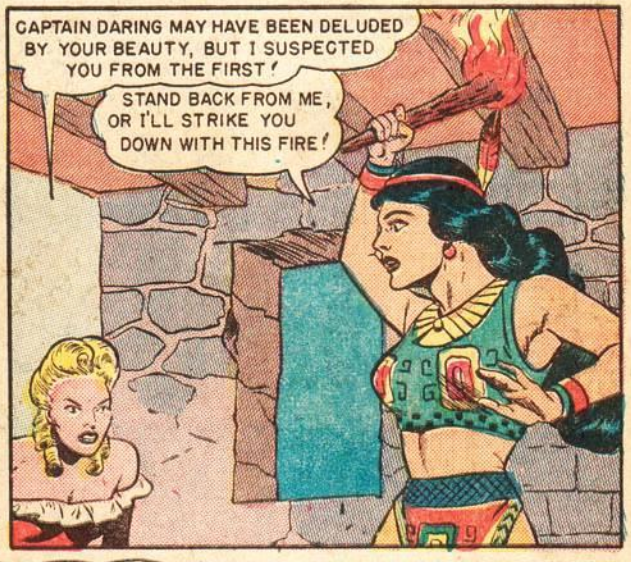

SHE IS OVERWHELMINGLY ATTRACTIVE, YOUR SAVAGE!
LET ME PERISH IF SHE'S NOT! I FIND IT STRANGE TO BELIEVE SUCH BEAUTIES DWELL IN JUNGLE HUTS!


MY PLAN IS AS GOOD AS COMPLETE! FIRST TO ADD A FEW DROPS OF THIS SLEEP-BRINGING DRUG---


BATTEN MY HATCHES, MA'AM, THIS IS KIND OF YE! I WEARY OF THIS GUARD!
WEARY, SAY YOU? WEARINESS IS MENDED BY SLEEP!


SLEEP--- YES, I'M TIRED---
MY DRUG WORKS WELL! NOW FOR A FLAME TO FINISH THE TASK!


NOW...A TOUCH OF FIRE TO THAT TRAIN OF POWDER, AND...
I FOLLOWED YOU! YOU'RE NOT ONLY A SIREN, YOU'RE A DESTROYER!


CAPTAIN DARING MAY HAVE BEEN DELUDED BY YOUR BEAUTY, BUT I SUSPECTED YOU FROM THE FIRST!
STAND BACK FROM ME, OR I'LL STRIKE YOU DOWN WITH THIS FIRE!


I FOLLOWED, TOO... AND JUST IN TIME!


SHE WAS TOO EAGER TO SEE OUR STORE OF POWDER! I MARKED HER DOWN FOR A SPY!
WELL, I TRIED, AND ALMOST SUCCEEDED! IF MY FRIENDS IN THE JUNGLE HAD BUT HEARD THE BLAST...


THE BLAST WOULD HAVE BEEN A SIGNAL FOR ATTACK, EH? DOLORES, GO SUMMON SIR MARK!
AT ONCE, CAPTAIN DARING!


MAN THE DEFENSES! STAND READY FOR OUR ORDERS!
AS SOON AS THEY ARE IN PLACE, I SHALL TOUCH OFF THIS POWDER!

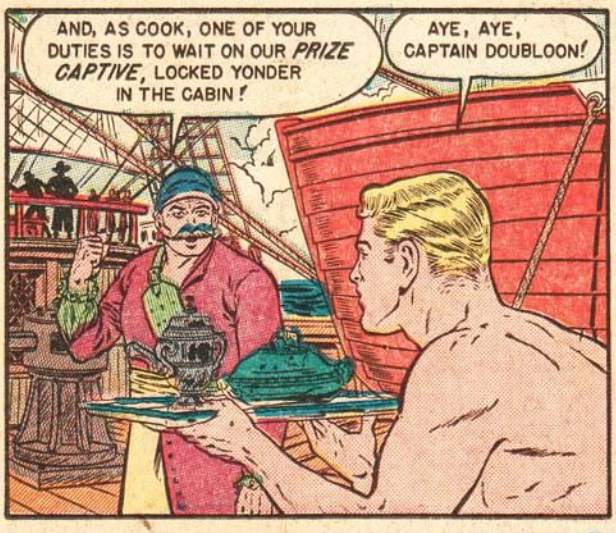

BOOM!
THAT NOISE MEANS THAT QUILLA HAS DESTROYED THEIR STORE OF THUNDER POWER! CHARGE THE STOCKADE BEFORE THEY RALLY!
8

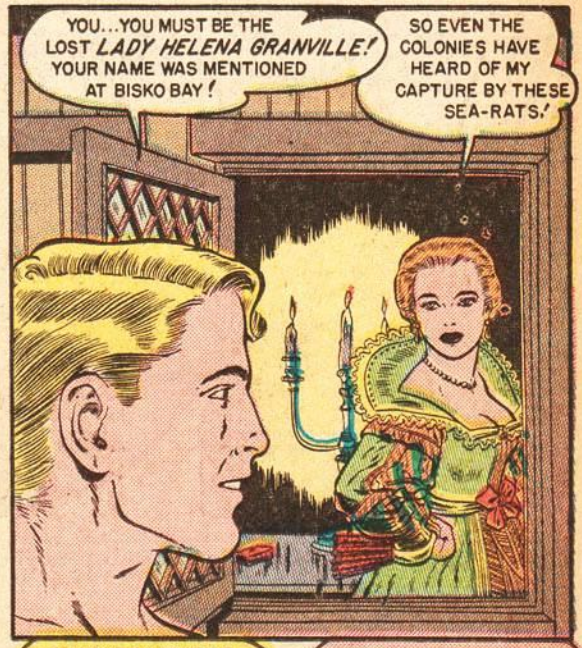

BUT, AS THE NATIVES DRIVE HOME THEIR CHARGE ON THE SETTLEMENT...
OUT AND AT THEM, LADS! COUNTER-ATTACK!
THIS IS ONE OF THEIR CHIEFS! SEIZE HIM!
WE ARE BETRAYED! RUN!
HERE'S THE OTHER CHIEF... AT THE VERY SIDE OF HIS FALSE IDOL!
AT THE FEET OF SETEBOS, I WILL LAY YOUR DEAD BODY FOR A SACRIFICE!
I AM DISARMED! KILL ME!
NO, YOUR LIFE SHALL BE SPARED! GATHER HERE, MEN... BRING YOUR PRISONERS!
SETEBOS HAS DECEIVED US! HIS VOICE ORDERED US TO ATTACK!
SAY YOU SO? THE IMAGE SPOKE TO YOU?
PATCH, BRING HITHER THAT FIRELOCK AND SEND AN OUNCE OF LEAD THROUGH THIS HEATHEN GOD!
NO! NO! DON'T FIRE! I SURRENDER!
I CONFESS! I HID INSIDE THE HOLLOW IMAGE AND SPOKE TO DECEIVE THE SAVAGES INTO ATTACKING YOU!
I KNOW THIS RASCAL! MASTER FENTON BRINT, A VAGABOND AND THIEF WE BANISHED FROM ILLYRIA!

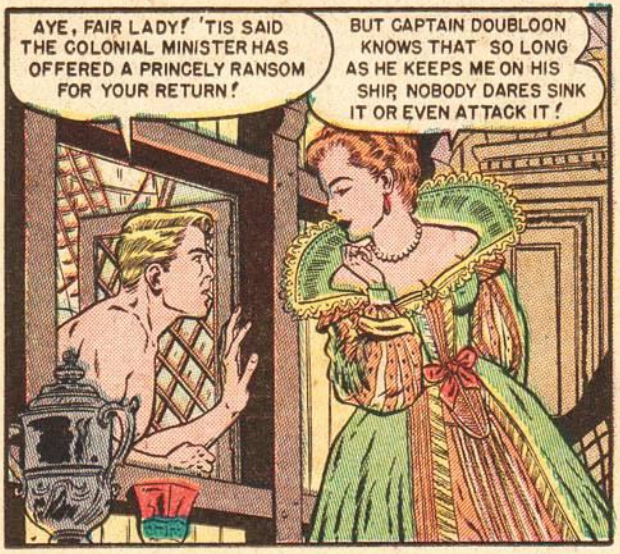

I'VE HEARD OF FENTON BRINT! IF THIS IS HE, THEN THE LADY IS NO NATIVE, BUT---
AYE! MY NAME IS TRISSA PARLEY! FENTON BRINT'S PARTNER WHO PLAYED THE PART OF A NATIVE PRIESTESS TO HELP STIR THE NATIVES TO WAR!
AND AS FOR THESE LEADERS OF THE SAVAGE ATTACKERS, I CONDEMN THEM TO---
HAVE PATIENCE, SIR MARK! IF I HAVE SERVED YOUR COLONY WELL, GIVE ME THE RIGHT TO SETTLE THE MATTER!
WE WERE FOOLS, PERSUADED BY LIARS! IF CAPTAIN DARING ORDERS US SLAIN, WE DESERVE IT!
YOU WILL HELP US MORE AS LIVING MEN THAN DEAD ONES! THIS LITTLE SKIRMISH HAS TAUGHT YOU THAT ILLYRIA COLONY IS NOT TO BE DESTROYED!
IT HAS ALSO CAUSED YOU TO BE ALLIES INSTEAD OF ENEMIES! LIVE HENCEFORTH IN PEACE WITH EACH OTHER AND WITH US!
WE HAVE HAD ENOUGH OF WAR! LET IT BE AS CAPTAIN DARING SAYS!
I, TOO, PROMISE PEACE---YET I WOULD LIKE TO STRIKE BOTH THOSE LYING CRIMINALS DEAD!
LET OUR LAW DISPOSE OF THEM, XOCTIL! THEY WILL BE SENT ACROSS THE SEA TO STAND TRIAL!
AND, WITH THE DANGER AVERTED...
LADY DOLORES, I GO BACK TO MY PATROL DUTY! BUT I SHALL RETURN!
MY HEART IS EVER WITH YOU, CAPTAIN DARING! AND YOU KNOW WHAT WELCOME AWAITS YOUR RETURN!


The SPANISH MAIN
THE PIRATES LOOTED BISKO BAY...
PART OF THEIR LOOT WAS LEAN, GOLDEN-HAIRED DICKON! WHAT WOULD COME OF THIS PRIZE FROM THE PILLORY???
THE SEA-ROVER CUTLASS RAIDS THE COLONY AT BISKO BAY...
SPRING ASHORE, ME HEARTIES! THE COWARDLY COLONISTS MUST HAVE KNOWN WE'D COME---THEY'RE HEADING FOR THE WOODS!
AYE, AYE, CAP'N DOUBLOON! AND DIDN'T WE HEAR THEY SENT FOR RICHARD ROYAL, THE MASTER PIRATE-KILLER?
WHEN THEY FLED, HEY LEFT THEIR GOLD BEHIND, CAP'N!
SINK ME, SOMEBODY STAYED---HE HAD TO! THIS SORRY-LOOKING LAD IN THE PILLORY!

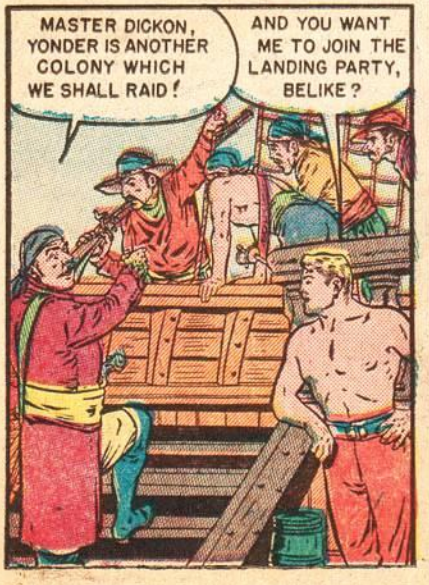

THE LUBBER MAKES A FIRST-RATE TARGET! LET ME SEE HOW MUCH LEAD HE CAN CARRY...
AVAST SHOOTING! REMEMBER... WE HAVE A COOK, AND THE COOK LACKS A SCULLION SINCE WE LOST ONE OVERBOARD!
COME OUT OF THAT WOODEN COLLAR, YOU SWAB, AND JOIN US! WHAT'S YOUR NAME?
THEY CALL ME DICKON, SIR!
HARKEE, DICKON! HAST EVER SEEN THIS PIRATE-SLAYER, RICHARD ROYAL?
WELL...NEVER FACE TO FACE, CAPTAIN! BUT THEY SAY HE'S BEEN SUMMONED TO FIND AND DESTROY CAPTAIN DOUBLOON!
HA, LET THE DOG SEEK ME IF HE DARE! BACK TO THE SHIP, MEN, WE HAVE ALL THAT'S WORTH TAKING HERE!
HERE, CARRY THIS PLUNDER, DICKON!
ABOARD THE *CUTLASS*, DICKON TOILS TO HELP THE COOK, UNTIL...
THERE'S NO NEED TO INSULT ME! I'M WORKING AS FAST AS I CAN!
HUH! YOU MAKE LOUD TALK! I TEACH YOU...
TAKE THAT TO COOL YOUR HOT BLOOD, COOKIE!
DICKON, 'TIS PIRATE CUSTOM TO RULE WHERE YOU CONQUER! YOU'RE CHIEF COOK NOW!


AND, AS COOK, ONE OF YOUR DUTIES IS TO WAIT ON OUR *PRIZE CAPTIVE*, LOCKED YONDER IN THE CABIN!
AYE, AYE, CAPTAIN DOUBLOON!


YOU...YOU MUST BE THE LOST *LADY HELENA GRANVILLE!* YOUR NAME WAS MENTIONED AT BISKO BAY!
SO EVEN THE COLONIES HAVE HEARD OF MY CAPTURE BY THESE SEA-RATS!

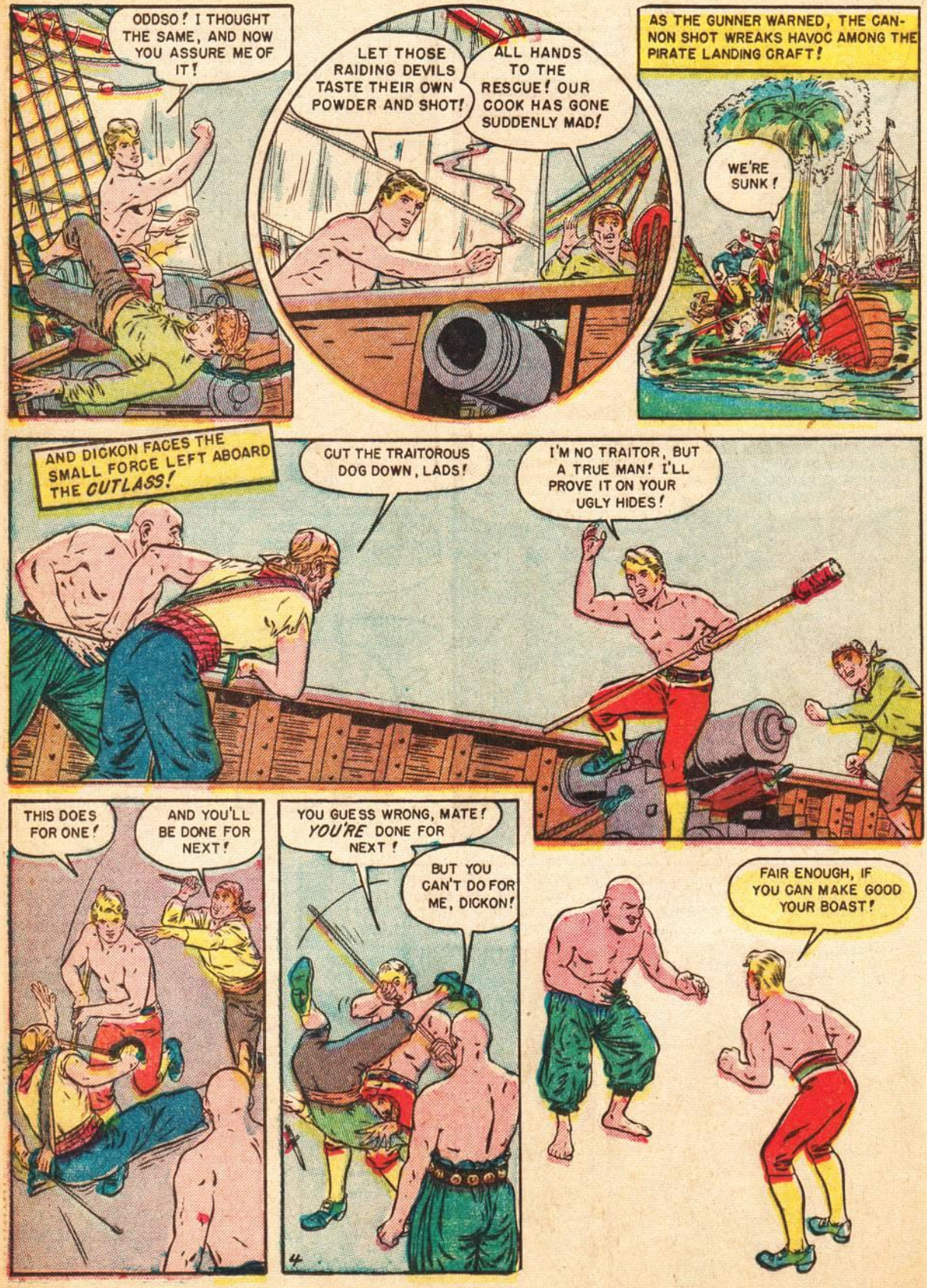

AYE, FAIR LADY! 'TIS SAID THE COLONIAL MINISTER HAS OFFERED A PRINCELY RANSOM FOR YOUR RETURN!
BUT CAPTAIN DOUBLOON KNOWS THAT SO LONG AS HE KEEPS ME ON HIS SHIP, NOBODY DARES SINK IT OR EVEN ATTACK IT!


YOU HAVE AN HONEST FACE FOR A PIRATE! MAYHAP YOU CAN HELP ME...
MAYHAP, LADY HELENA! BUT NOW CAPTAIN DOUBLOON BECKONS ME!

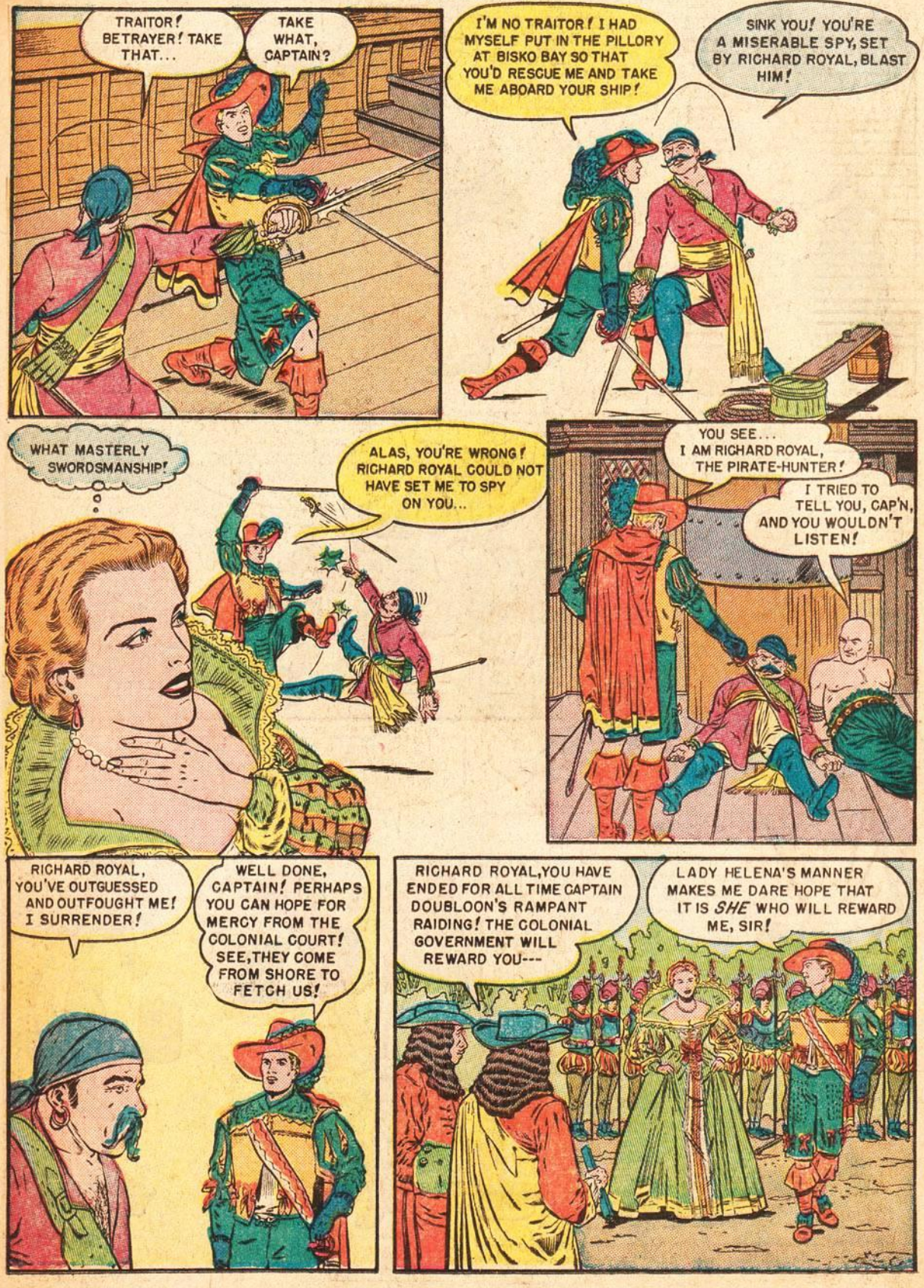

MASTER DICKON, YONDER IS ANOTHER COLONY WHICH WE SHALL RAID!
AND YOU WANT ME TO JOIN THE LANDING PARTY, BELIKE?


NOT SO...YOU'RE OUR COOK, AND WE LEAVE YOU ON BOARD TO PREPARE A FEAST AGAINST OUR VICTORIOUS RETURN!
BOATS AWAY!

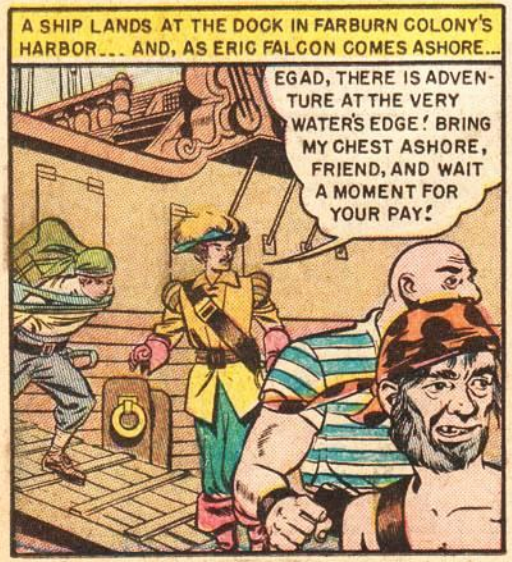

WHY DO YOU NOT FIRE THE GUN AT YONDER TOWN, MASTER GUNNER?
WHAT NEED? THE COLONISTS WILL FLY BEFORE US! IN ANY CASE, THE GUN WOULD STRIKE A SHOT JUST NOW AMONG OUR LANDING BOATS... DESTROY THEM...


ODDSO! I THOUGHT THE SAME, AND NOW YOU ASSURE ME OF IT!
LET THOSE RAIDING DEVILS TASTE THEIR OWN POWDER AND SHOT!
ALL HANDS TO THE RESCUE! OUR COOK HAS GONE SUDDENLY MAD!
AS THE GUNNER WARNED, THE CANNON SHOT WREAKS HAVOC AMONG THE PIRATE LANDING CRAFT!
WE'RE SUNK!
AND DICKON FACES THE SMALL FORCE LEFT ABOARD THE CUTLASS!
CUT THE TRAITOROUS DOG DOWN, LADS!
I'M NO TRAITOR, BUT A TRUE MAN! I'LL PROVE IT ON YOUR UGLY HIDES!
THIS DOES FOR ONE!
AND YOU'LL BE DONE FOR NEXT!
YOU GUESS WRONG, MATE! YOU'RE DONE FOR NEXT!
BUT YOU CAN'T DO FOR ME, DICKON!
FAIR ENOUGH, IF YOU CAN MAKE GOOD YOUR BOAST!
4


I'LL CRUSH YOU LIKE A MOSQUITO... OOF!
THIS MOSQUITO CAN AVOID YOUR BLOW...AND STING IN RETURN!
CURSE YOU FOR A SLIPPERY, SHIFTY SWAB!
WHAT'S AMISS, MATE? YOU STUMBLE AS IF THE DECK WAS PITCHING!
LET GO! HAVE MERCY! I SURRENDER!
LATER YOU'LL BE GLAD YOU SAID THAT... YOU MAY WIN MERCY FROM THE JUDGES!
NOW, BEFORE I RELEASE LADY HELENA...YES, MY CLOTHES WERE BROUGHT WITH THE LOOT FROM BISKO BAY!
ON SHORE...
YOU'RE OUR PRISONERS, YOU PIRATE SCOUNDRELS! RICHARD ROYAL PREPARED US BEFOREHAND FOR YOUR RAID!
AT LEAST YOU WON'T GET CAP'N DOUBLOON! HE SWAM BACK TO THE SHIP!
IT'S CAPTAIN DOUBLOON! HE'LL MURDER YOU!
PERHAPS NOT QUITE, MY LADY!
THAT MUMPING VILLAIN DICKON DID THIS, EH? I'LL SEE HIM DRAWN AND QUARTERED!
BEWARE, CAP'N! HE'S A TERROR!
5


TRAITOR! BETRAYER! TAKE THAT...
TAKE WHAT, CAPTAIN?
I'M NO TRAITOR! I HAD MYSELF PUT IN THE PILLORY AT BISKO BAY SO THAT YOU'D RESCUE ME AND TAKE ME ABOARD YOUR SHIP!
SINK YOU! YOU'RE A MISERABLE SPY, SET BY RICHARD ROYAL, BLAST HIM!
WHAT MASTERLY SWORDSMANSHIP!
ALAS, YOU'RE WRONG! RICHARD ROYAL COULD NOT HAVE SET ME TO SPY ON YOU...
YOU SEE... I AM RICHARD ROYAL, THE PIRATE-HUNTER!
I TRIED TO TELL YOU, CAP'N, AND YOU WOULDN'T LISTEN!
RICHARD ROYAL, YOU'VE OUTGUESSED AND OUTFOUGHT ME! I SURRENDER!
WELL DONE, CAPTAIN! PERHAPS YOU CAN HOPE FOR MERCY FROM THE COLONIAL COURT! SEE, THEY COME FROM SHORE TO FETCH US!
RICHARD ROYAL, YOU HAVE ENDED FOR ALL TIME CAPTAIN DOUBLOON'S RAMPANT RAIDING! THE COLONIAL GOVERNMENT WILL REWARD YOU---
LADY HELENA'S MANNER MAKES ME DARE HOPE THAT IT IS *SHE* WHO WILL REWARD ME, SIR!


ERIC FALCON
WITCHCRAFT!! OUR COLONIAL FATHERS FEARED IT AS A PLAGUE THAT COULD DESTROY A WHOLE PEOPLE, THEY FOUGHT IT GRIMLY AND MERCILESSLY! ERIC FALCON HAD HIS TASTE OF THE WITCHCRAFT MENACE WHEN...


A SHIP LANDS AT THE DOCK IN FARBURN COLONY'S HARBOR... AND, AS ERIC FALCON COMES ASHORE...
EGAD, THERE IS ADVENTURE AT THE VERY WATER'S EDGE! BRING MY CHEST ASHORE, FRIEND, AND WAIT A MOMENT FOR YOUR PAY!

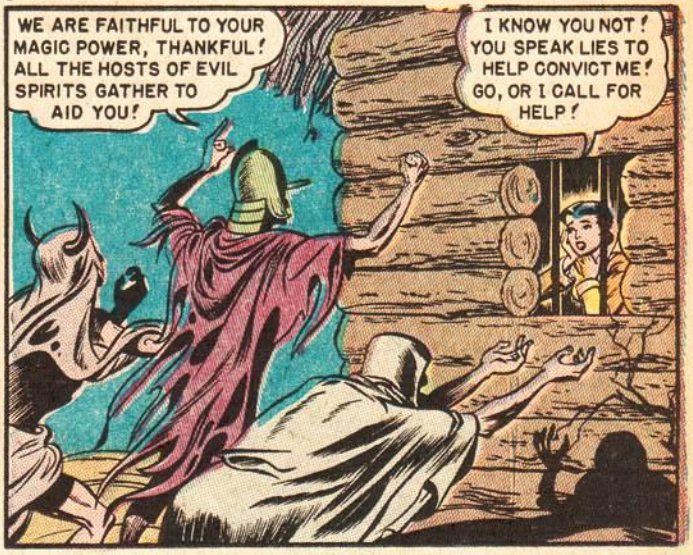

BLACK CURSES ON THE WITCH-GIRL! BURN HER WITH FIRE!
WAIT, FRIENDS! FOR SHAME! SO MANY STOUT MEN AGAINST ONE POOR, PRETTY LASS!


MEDDLE NOT IN OUR BUSINESS, STRANGER, OR I STRIKE...OWW!
BEST TO STRIKE FIRST AND THREATEN LATER!
D'YE GROW AT US, YOUNG COCKEREL? MAYHAP I'LL NOTCH YOUR COMB FOR YOU!
IF YOU NAME ME COCKEREL, BEWARE THE THRUST OF MY SPUR!
YEOW!
T'WOULD HAVE BEEN AS EASY TO STRIKE YOUR HEART AS YOUR HAND!
NOW, GOOD FOLK, WILL YOU LISTEN TO ME, OR MUST I SPUR ALL OF YOU?
SPEAK, AND HAVE DONE! BUT YOU CANNOT PERSUADE US TO RELEASE YONDER FIENDISH SORCERESS!
WITCHCRAFT? YOU CHARGE HER WITH BEWITCHING MEN? SINK ME, SHE IS FAIR ENOUGH TO BEWITCH MANY!
YOU MOCK US, FELLOW! SHE STANDS ACCUSED OF CASTING SPELLS UPON SQUIRE CRAFTON AND ALL HIS POSSESSIONS!
I AM SQUIRE CRAFTON! SHE SENT A MAGIC PLAGUE TO SLAY MY CATTLE, AND WHEN I ACCUSED HER, SHE STRUCK ME LAME AS YOU SEE!
'TIS TRUE! WE CAN SWEAR TO IT! STAND ASIDE AND LET US DESTROY HER BEFORE SHE BEWITCHES OTHERS!
YET STAY YOUR HANDS! IF SHE IS GUILTY OF THIS STRANGE CRIME, LET HER BE TRIED IN A COURT OF LAW--NOT KILLED WITHOUT HEARING!
WELL AND WISELY SAID, YOUNG SIR!
I AM GOVERNOR LINSTOCK OF THIS COLONY! AS SOON AS I HEARD OF THE GIRL'S CAPTURE, I CAME WITH SOLDIERS TO ARREST HER! SHE SHALL HAVE TRIAL BEFORE ME!
TO YOU, EXCELLENCY, I BOW!
2


THANKFUL MARLOWE IS MY NAME--AND THANKFUL IS MY NATURE TOWARD YOU, BRAVE SIR! YOU MUST HAVE COME IN ANSWER TO MY PRAYERS!
I CAME TO FARBURN BUT BY CHANCE, TO WAIT A MEETING WITH THE SHIP THAT BRINGS A COMRADE OF MINE! THIS ADVENTURE HAS KEPT ME FROM BOREDOM!
BRING THE GIRL TO THE PRISON HOUSE! TOMORROW SHE SHALL BE TRIED!
AS FOR THIS STRANGER... MAYHAP HE IS A WIZARD, EVEN AS HIS FRIEND IS A WITCH! WATCH HIM WELL, NEIGHBORS!
EVENING...
I FEAR TOMORROW'S TRIAL! SQUIRE CRAFTON HAS MANY FRIENDS WHO WILL SWEAR MY LIFE AWAY! AND GOVERNOR LINSTOCK HATES WITCHES...
YET HE SEEMS HONORABLE, AND MAY BE PERSUADED TO HEAR THE TRUTH! BE OF GOOD CHEER, THANKFUL!
MEANWHILE...
MEANWHILE, WHAT ARE THOSE WEIRD CREATURES STEALING CLOSE?
THANKFUL MARLOWE! WE ARE YOUR FRIENDS, THE SPIRITS OF MAGIC! LET GOVERNOR LINSTOCK BEWARE, OR WE STRIKE HIM WITH OUR STEEL!
AWAY WITH YOU ALL, OR I'LL STRIKE YOU WITH MY STEEL!
HA! HA! HA! YOU CANNOT CATCH SHADOWS SUCH AS WE!
ALAS, ERIC FALCON, THEY ARE NO FRIENDS OF MINE!
I SWEAR BY HEAVEN'S HEIGHT THAT THEY HAD NO REASON TO PROMISE THEIR WICKED HELP!
TRUE, THANKFUL! HAD THEY MEANT IT, THEY WOULD HAVE VISITED LINSTOCK, NOT YOU! THERE MAY BE MORE IN THIS THAN MERE FANCY!
3


MORNING COMES, AND WITH IT THE TRIAL...
COMES NOW THANKFUL MARLOWE TO ANSWER ACCUSATIONS OF WITCHCRAFT! WHO BRINGS EVIDENCE AGAINST HER?
THAT WILL I, YOUR EXCELLENCY! I SUFFER AND LANGUISH BECAUSE OF HER EVIL MAGIC!
I READ HERE THAT SHE IS AN ORPHAN GIRL, OWNING THE FARM NEXT TO YOUR ESTATE, SQUIRE CRAFTON!
AYE! SHE ENVIES ME THOSE ACRES! SHE THREATENED TO KILL MY CATTLE... AND LATER OTHER NEIGHBORS SAW THEM DIE IN MYSTERIOUS AGONY!
I PLEADED WITH HER TO REMOVE THE SPELL! FOR ANSWER SHE CALLED DOWN A CURSE THAT MADE ME LAME, AS YOU SEE ME!
I, TOO, SWEAR TO THESE THINGS! I SAW THE DEAD CATTLE, AND TESTIFY THAT POOR SQUIRE CRAFTON IS LAME!
WHAT ANSWERS THE PRISONER TO THESE ACCUSATIONS?
PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY, THE POOR LASS IS TOO FRIGHTENED TO SPEAK! LET ME OFFER A DEFENSE...
IT MIGHT BE A TRICK, A DECEIT... BY SOMEONE WHO COVETS THE ORPHAN'S ACRES AS SHE IS SAID TO COVET THE ACRES OF SQUIRE CRAFTON!
NAY, BUT ONLY LAST NIGHT CAME MORE PROOF! STRANGE, GHASTLY SHAPES DANCED OUTSIDE THANKFUL MARLOWE'S PRISON-HOUSE, SWEARING TO PUNISH OUR GOOD GOVERNOR IF HE HARMED HER!
IS THAT THE TRUTH? BY THE POWERS, I FEAR NO EVIL... MAN OR SPIRIT! IF THREATS WERE UTTERED AGAINST ME...
YOUR EXCELLENCY, I CRAVE INDULGENCE FOR THIS POOR TERRIFIED CHILD! SHE HAS FAINTED!
LET HER BE CARED FOR IN HER CELL, AND THE TRIAL'S END BE DELAYED UNTIL TOMORROW! IT WILL BE ONLY JUST!
AYE, JUSTICE MAY BE SERVED IN MORE WAYS THAN ONE!
FOR IF SPIRITS OF EVIL PRANCE ABROAD BY NIGHT TO THREATEN ME, I MEAN TO SEE AND HEAR THEM MYSELF!


AGAIN NIGHT FALLS, AND IN THE PRISON HOUSE...
MY SOLE HOPE IS IN ERIC FALCON! IF HE CAN...WHAT'S THAT?
THANKFUL... THANKFUL MARLOWE...


WE ARE FAITHFUL TO YOUR MAGIC POWER, THANKFUL! ALL THE HOSTS OF EVIL SPIRITS GATHER TO AID YOU!
I KNOW YOU NOT! YOU SPEAK LIES TO HELP CONVICT ME! GO, OR I CALL FOR HELP!


HELP, GOOD PEOPLE! HELP!
HA! HA! QUICK, INTO THE WOODS ALONG THIS LANE...


TEN THOUSAND DEVILS! WHAT TRAP IS THIS?
A SIMPLE ROPE, FRIENDS ...STRETCHED ACROSS THE PATHWAY BY WHICH I SAW YOU FLEE YESTERNIGHT!


WHAT DO YOU TRY HERE, ERIC FALCON?
EGAD, THE VOICE IS SQUIRE CRAFTON'S! YOU ARE NIMBLE WHEN YOU NEED NOT PRETEND TO A BEWITCHED LAMENESS!


THERE IS A FINE MOON TONIGHT, FELLOW! ENOUGH LIGHT TO RECOGNIZE YOU BY!
AYE, AND ENOUGH LIGHT TO KILL YOU BY! DRAW UPON HIM, FRIENDS!


WATCH HIM! HE WIELDS A SWORD LIKE A DESTROYING ANGEL!
RUSH HIM, YOU FOOLS! FOR ALL HIS PROWESS, HE IS BUT ONE AGAINST THREE...
YOU ARE WRONG, CRAFTON! I AM ONE AGAINST TWO!
OHH!
AND TWO TO ONE MAKETH NO UNCONQUERABLE ODDS, MY MASTERS!
I'LL BEAT DOWN HIS GUARD, AND YOU STRIKE HIM!
CURSE HIM, HE DODGED!
AND NOW IT'S TWO SWORDS AGAINST TWO!
QUICK, FINISH HIM! YOUR STEEL IS SHARP...
AYE, BUT HIS GRIP ON THE HILT IS WEAK!
COME BACK, YOU CRAVEN DOG!
HE FLEES FASTER THAN YOUR VOICE CAN FOLLOW, SQUIRE CRAFTON! NOW YOU AND I ARE LEFT ALONE! SHALL WE CONTINUE?


NAY, I CAST MY WEAPON ASIDE! I DOUBT IF YOU WOULD SLAY A HELPLESS MAN!
YOU JUDGE ME ARIGHT! COME THEN, AND TELL THE COLONY HOW YOU TRIED TO SLAY A HELPLESS GIRL!
YOU DO NOT DENY THAT YOU WANTED HER LANDS, AND WITH YOUR SKULKING SERVANTS TRUMPED UP THE WITCHCRAFT CHARGE AGAINST HER!
FREELY I ADMIT AS MUCH TO YOU! BUT ADMITTING IT TO OTHERS... THAT I WILL NOT DO!
I AM A RESPECTED COLONIST HERE, YOU ARE A STRANGER! THERE IS BUT YOUR WORD AGAINST MINE...
YOU ARE WRONG, CRAFTON, OTHERS, TOO, CAME TO WATCH FOR THE SUPPOSED EVIL SPIRITS AT THE PRISON HOUSE...
GOVERNOR LINSTOCK HAS SEEN AND HEARD YOUR GUILT, CRAFTON! COME, HE WILL ARREST YOU FOR YOUR LIES AND CRIMES!
BRING HIM ALONG, YOUNG SIR! AND I MUST RELEASE THANKFUL MARLOWE AND BEG HER FORGIVENESS FOR OUR FALSE SUSPICION!
AND LATER...
THE SHIP ARRIVES WITH MY COMRADE WHOSE COMING I AWAITED, MISTRESS THANKFUL!
BRAVE ERIC, MY WOES ARE RIGHTED, THANKS TO YOU! AND I HAVE NAUGHT BUT WISH TO REWARD YOU! WHEN YOUR COMRADE COMES, LET HIM...
NOT "HIM", THANKFUL! MY COMRADE IS THE LOVELY LADY FORTUNA, IN WHOSE SERVICE I PERFORM SUCH SMALL DEEDS AS YOU ADMIRE!
ERIC, MY SWEET! HAPPY THE EYES THAT SEE YOU!
TRUE FORTUNA, MY ANGEL, I HAD SOME SLIGHT ADVENTURE WHILE WAITING FOR YOU...
ALAS, THAT I HAVE NOT REAL SORCERY TO MAKE HIM NOTICE ME!

BUCCANEERS

A WOMAN'S WEAPON

"IT is the simple truth, my sweet lady," said Captain Daring to the Lady Dolores as they watched the dancers at the birthday feast of her uncle, the governor of Illyria Colony. "All this wild land and this untamed sea of the new world offers itself to the man who dares face it. He needs no fortune. A brave heart, an honest character and, perchance, a ready sword." He touched the hilt of his own rapier.

"What of the women, Captain?" asked Dolores.

"The women?" repeated Captain Daring. "Egad, they are a necessity, too. They inspire, comfort and reward the triumphant adventurer. They are the prizes for which we strive, the—"

"I didn't mean that," she cut him off. "Cannot women be brave and wise and true? Have they not weapons of their own?"

"Marry come up, they do," he smiled. "Your own weapons, lovely one, are bright eyes and sweet smiles. They pierce hearts as no shot or steel could."

"No other weapons?" She spread her hands. One held a sachet of perfumed powder.

"You mean that delicate scented dust you carry, Dolores," he said. "What can it avail, though? Gunpowder is more to my understanding."

A tall, richly-dressed cavalier walked proudly toward them. "Lady Dolores," he said in a rich, insistent voice, "I crave your company for the next minuet."

"But, Sir Dunstan," protested Dolores, "I do not mind promising it to you!"

"Then promise it to me now." To Captain Daring the fellow said, "This rover will surely allow Lady Dolores the relief of coming with me. She must be weary of your quarter-deck manners—the boorishness of a pirate, I think."

"Sir Dunstan," said Captain Daring, "I think that the Lady Dolores is not too eager to depart with you. Nor do I like your clumsy effort to pick a quarrel with me."

"Odso!" cried Sir Dunstan mockingly. "And how would my prince of pirates, my lord of looters, pick a quarrel?"

"Much more efficiently," said Captain Daring, and rose. "Thus!"

A moment later the sea-adventurer's rugged fist had knocked the gay cavalier sprawling. There was a hubbub of excitement and a thronging of guests as Sir Dunstan rose, his face contorted with rage.

"You shall pay for that blow, Captain!" he snarled. "Here—now!"

"I was going to suggest that," said Captain Daring. "Ladies and gentlemen, a few moments, please. Watch, while Sir Dunstan and I entertain you with swordplay."

Captain Daring was mystified. He knew that Sir Dunstan was jealous of his achievements, his fame, and his success with Dolores. But did the man actually dare meet him in fair combat? As their blades crossed, Captain Daring forbore to smile. The fellow was a sorry swordsman, it was almost a shame to draw his blood—

Suddenly, a blinding flash of light filled Captain Daring's eyes. He bowed quickly and sprang aside, just in time to avoid a murderous thrust. Only half seeing, he parried another lunge and retreated.

"Ha, the insolent sea-dog flees!" laughed Sir Dunstan.

"But for the moment," said Captain Daring, and thrust quickly. But at the moment, the light blinded him again. Sir Dunstan swept his blade aside, and his counter thrust ripped Captain Daring's collar.

Captain Daring shook his head to clear his vision. He engaged Sir Dunstan's blade, foiled one more thrust. His own point threatened the other's throat, and as Sir Dunstan flinched back, Captain Daring shifted his attack, lunged smoothly, and ran his enemy neatly through the sword arm.

"Attend his wound, some of you," said Captain Daring. "I could have killed him like a fly, but I choose to let him live and be wiser."

He walked away from the chattering crowd. Dolores followed him. "That was close," she said shakily.

"Not so," he comforted her. "He was a child before me. Had not some strange flash of light blinded me temporarily—"

"Don't you know what that was? A friend of his flashed a mirror to send the light into your eyes. Fortunately I spotted it and threw my own weapon."

"Weapon?" he repeated. "Where's your powder sachet?"

She smiled. "I ripped it open and tossed it. The powder struck the mirror and made it dim—just in time to keep you from being blinded for a third time, giving Sir Dunstan the chance to stab you. Now do you see what I mean when I speak of women and their weapons?"

"Gramercy, my fair lady," said Captain Daring, kissing her hand, "I cry you mercy for underestimating you. What would men be without women near at hand?"

"A lonesome lot," said Lady Dolores, sweetly.

Black ROGER

THE POWER OF LIGHTNING IS INVOKED AGAINST BLACK ROGER! WHEN HIS VALIANT SEA-FIGHTERS SWEPT THE OCEANS OF INFIDEL PIRATES, HIS ENEMIES BROUGHT STRANGE AND TERRIBLE WEAPONS FROM THE UNKNOWN INTERIOR! AND THE SECRET OF THOSE WEAPONS WAS HELD BY THE BALEFUL, BEAUTIFUL KAHENA!!

AFTER THEIR LATEST VICTORIOUS ACTION AGAINST BARBARY PIRATES, BLACK ROGER'S MEN ARE ON SHORE LEAVE ... BUT BLACK ROGER HIMSELF...

WE OFFER YOU, SIR, A POWERFUL NEW FIGHTING SHIP AND A PICKED CREW OF SAILORS AND FIGHTERS, TO CRUSH FOREVER THE PLUNDERING FOE!

WELL, LET MY OWN CREW IDLE AND MY OWN SHIP BE REFITTED! BARTY IS THE ONLY COMRADE I'LL ADD TO YOUR ROSTER! WE SAIL WITH THE TIDE!

AND SPIES BRING THE NEWS TO A CAPITAL OF THE MOSLEM MARAUDERS...

ALAS, O SHEIK! THE DEVIL-CAPTAIN, BLACK ROGER, SAILS IN A GREAT NEW SHIP TO DESTROY US ALL! WHAT SHALL BECOME OF US?

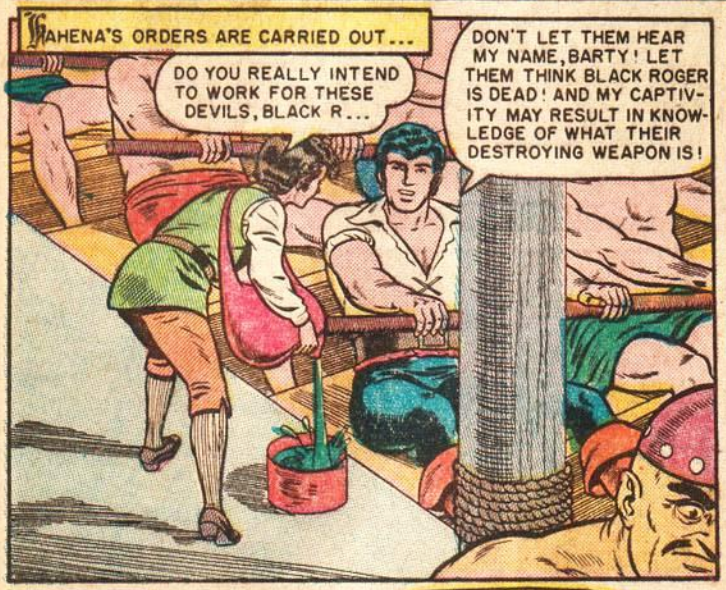
ALREADY OUR STOUTEST SEA-ROVERS HAVE REFUSED TO FACE HIM! OUR FATE IS IN THE HANDS OF ALLAH... MAY HE BE MERCIFUL!

HAIL, CITY COWARDS! I HEAR HOW YOUR MEN WILL NOT FIGHT BLACK ROGER! IT IS UP TO A WOMAN TO DARE THAT!

O SHAMELESS ONE, FROM WHAT SAVAGE PLACE DO YOU COME WITHOUT A VEIL ON YOUR FACE?


SHALL I STOP HIS INSULTING MOUTH, OH GREAT CHIEFTAINESS?
NAY, DURADEEN! HE DOES NOT KNOW I AM KAHENA, WHO RULES THE MOUNTAINS OF KHOB! WOMEN GO UNVEILED THERE, AND SPEAK AS THEY PLEASE!
PARDON IF I WAS RUDE, MY LADY! OUR CITY TRADES WITH KHOB FOR THE METALS MINED AND WORKED THERE!
WE HAVE LATELY DONE SOMEWHAT OF METAL-WORK --- LOOK, IT COMES TO YOUR CITY BEHIND ME!
ALMADOLILLAH! NEVER SAW I SO LARGE AND TERRIBLE A...
IT WAS MADE TO DESTROY THIS TROUBLESOME BLACK ROGER! SINCE YOUR OWN SEA-CHIEFS REFUSE, I MYSELF WILL COMMAND AGAINST HIM! GIVE ME A SHIP AND A CREW TO TAKE MY WEAPON INTO BATTLE!
NOT LONG AFTERWARD, IN THE OPEN WATERS BETWEEN THE NATIONS...
KAHENA, BEHOLD! BLACK ROGER'S POWERFUL SHIP, AND MAKING STRAIGHT FOR US!
LET THEM COME CLOSE! THEY WILL NEVER KNOW WHAT STRUCK THEM!
WHAT DO YOU SEE FROM YOUR LOOKOUT POSITION, BARTY?
IT DOESN'T LOOK LIKE A FIGHTING CRAFT, BLACK ROGER! BUT WATCH... A BIG DOOR SEEMS TO BE OPENING IN THE PROW...
JUST THEN...
BOOM
AND WHEN BLACK ROGER'S SENSES RETURN...
WHAT WAS IT STUNNED ME, BARTY?
I KNOW NO MORE THAN YOU, BLACK ROGER! LIGHTNING SEEMED TO KNOCK OUR SHIP INTO NOTHING! WE WERE THROWN CLEAR WITH THIS PIECE OF MAST!
LOOK! TWO OF THE ENEMY ARE AFLOAT HERE!
WE'LL PICK THEM UP AND CARRY THEM BEFORE KAHENA!


O MIGHTY KAHENA, SHALL WE AMUSE YOU BY INVENTING A NEW WAY FOR THEIR DESTRUCTION?
NO! WE HAVE NONE TOO MANY SLAVES AT OUR OARS! LET THE BIG FELLOW HELP ROW US, AND THE BOY CAN CARRY WATER!


KAHENA'S ORDERS ARE CARRIED OUT...
DO YOU REALLY INTEND TO WORK FOR THESE DEVILS, BLACK R...
DON'T LET THEM HEAR MY NAME, BARTY! LET THEM THINK BLACK ROGER IS DEAD! AND MY CAPTIVITY MAY RESULT IN KNOWLEDGE OF WHAT THEIR DESTROYING WEAPON IS!


WHERE ARE THEY MAKING US ROW THEM, MATE?
TO THEIR HOME PORT! THE VICTORY OVER BLACK ROGER WILL BE REASON FOR DAYS OF REJOICING AMONG THE INFIDELS!


REST ON YOUR OARS, CAPTIVE DOGS! WE ARE DROPPING ANCHOR IN OUR OWN HARBOR! MAY ALLAH BE PRAISED FOR OUR TRIUMPHANT RETURN!
ALREADY A BARGE PUTS OFF, WITH THE SHEIK OF THE PORT ABOARD!


GREETINGS, SHEIK OF A COWARD PORT! WHILE YOUR BRAVEST CAPTAINS SKULKED HERE, WE STRUCK BLACK ROGER, AND A SECOND BLOW WAS NOT NEEDED!
LADY KAHENA, FOR BRINGING SUCH NEWS YOU MAY NAME WHAT REWARD YOU WILL!


SUPPOSE I ASK FOR THE RULE OF YOUR CITY?
A WOMAN RULE US? SUCH A STRANGE THING HAS NEVER BEEN!


NO...NO WOMAN HAS RULED! ONLY MEN... WHO DARED NOT FACE BLACK ROGER!
THIS IS A DEEP MATTER, BY ALLAH! COME, SPEAK TO THE COUNCIL OF THE PORT! THEY SHALL DECIDE!
AND SO...
IT IS THE DECISION OF THE COUNCIL THAT THE LADY KAHENA IS OUR CITY'S RULER! HAD WE NOT SO DECIDED...
HAD YOU NOT, MY WEAPON IN THE SHIP YONDER WOULD HAVE DESTROYED YOU! I LEFT DURADEEN ABOARD, WITH CERTAIN SPECIAL ORDERS!
ABOARD THE SHIP...
PSST! I STOLE THIS TOOTHPICK FROM ONE OF THE CREW!
ALL THANKS, BARTY! STAND BY TO HELP ME WHEN...
...I GET FREE AND GO TO LOOK AT THAT STRANGE WEAPON OF THEIRS!
CLICK
WHAT'S INSIDE THERE?
ASK NO QUESTIONS, LITTLE ONE, LEST YOU HEAR THE ANSWER IN THE INFERNO KEPT FOR SAUCY YOUNG UNBELIEVERS!
I HATE TO STRIKE ANYBODY FROM BEHIND, BUT THIS IS A DESPERATE CASE!
YOU BEEFED HIM STURDILY, BLACK ROGER! HERE, I'LL CLIP THE KEY!


PSST, FRIEND! THIS KEY WILL FIT THE LOCK OF YOUR SHACKLES! FREE YOURSELF AND PASS IT ALONG!
LOOK YOU, BARTY, AT WHAT'S IN HERE!
HEAVEN PRESERVE US, BLACK ROGER! HOW MONSTROUS A MACHINE!
SEE WHAT IT IS, BARTY? A...
A CANNON... LARGER THAN ANY I EVER SAW! IT MUST FIRE A SHOT THE SIZE OF A HOGSHEAD!
AYE, BUT HOW CAN ONE SHOT, EVEN SO BIG, DESTROY A TALL SHIP LIKE OURS?
HERE'S HOW, YOUNGSTER! THE SHOT IS HOLLOW... AND CAN BE FILLED WITH SLOW BURNING POWDER! ITS EXPLOSION COULD DESTROY ANY SHIP AFLOAT!
AGAINST SUCH A GUN THE BRAVEST DEFENSE IS NOTHING! WHAT NOW?
WELL, WE'VE LEARNED THE SECRET OF THEIR WEAPON! AND NOW THAT WE'VE LEARNED IT...
NOW THAT YOU'VE LEARNED IT, YOU DIE WITH THE LEARNING!
YOUR APPOINTED HOUR HAS COME!
EGAD, YOU LEAVE US SCANT CHOICE IN THE MATTER!
MAYHAP WE CAN DO SOME DESTROYING OURSELVES!
O BRAT OF FOREIGN DEVILS, I SHALL...
5


NO BULLETS FOR BARTY THIS DAY!
BANG
COME YOU TO GRIPS WITH ME, O THOUSANDFOLD FOOL? I'LL SHRED YOU LIKE A DRIED LEAF!
POOR EASTERNER! YOU KNOW NOTHING OF MY PEOPLE'S FIST-SCIENCE!
I HAVE HIS BLADE, BLACK ROGER! HE'S OUR PRISONER!
LAUGH WHILE YOU HAVE THE TIME, DEVILS! MY MATES ABOARD THIS SHIP WILL FREE ME!
I THINK NOT! YOUR MATES HAVE THEIR HANDS MORE THAN FULL OUTSIDE!
HA, FRIENDS, HAVE YOU OVERPOWERED YOUR CAPTORS?
AYE! WE SEIZED THEM ERE THEY KNEW WE WERE FREE! LOOK, THAT TIGRESS, WHO COMMANDED THEM, IS COMING ABOARD!
HO, MY FOLLOWERS! REJOICE WITH ME... I AM THE NEW RULER OF THIS PORT, AND PLAN GREATER CONQUESTS OF OUR FOEMEN!
WE WILL PAY YOU HONOR ON DECK, O LADY OF TRIUMPH!
YOU ARE OUR PRISONER! WE WAITED FOR YOU, THAT YOU MIGHT COME HOME WITH US TO HELP TELL OUR STORY!
THINK YOU THAT YOU CAN KEEP ME? IF THIS SHIP PUTS OUT FROM HARBOR, THE COUNCIL WILL ORDER A FLEET TO FOLLOW!
EVEN IF I DIE IN THE BATTLE, SO SHALL YOU!
GUARD HER, MATE! BARTY AND I HAVE BUSINESS IN THE FOREHOLD!


GUIDE THE SHOT INTO THE CANNON'S MOUTH, BARTY!
HALF AN INCH MORE AND OUR LOADING IS COMPLETED!
THERE! WE HAVE HER AIMED POINT-BLANK TOWARD THEIR COUNCIL PALACE!
AT THAT MOMENT...
KAHENA RETURNS NOT! PERHAPS WE HAD BEST ORDER OTHERS TO JOIN HER!
BE IT AS YOU SAY...
BOOM
THE SHOT STRIKES ITS MARK AND EXPLODES!
UP ANCHOR! MAKE SAIL AND HEAD FOR OUR HOME!
SURELY YOU ARE THE FAVORED OF DEVILS... OR PERHAPS OF ANGELS! I KNOW NOT!
AND AT LAST...
I MOURN THAT THE SHIP YOU GAVE ME WAS LOST, BUT...
THIS GIANT CANNON IS WORTH MANY TIMES THAT SHIP! IT WILL GUARD OUR SHORES FOREVER FROM PIRATE RAIDS!

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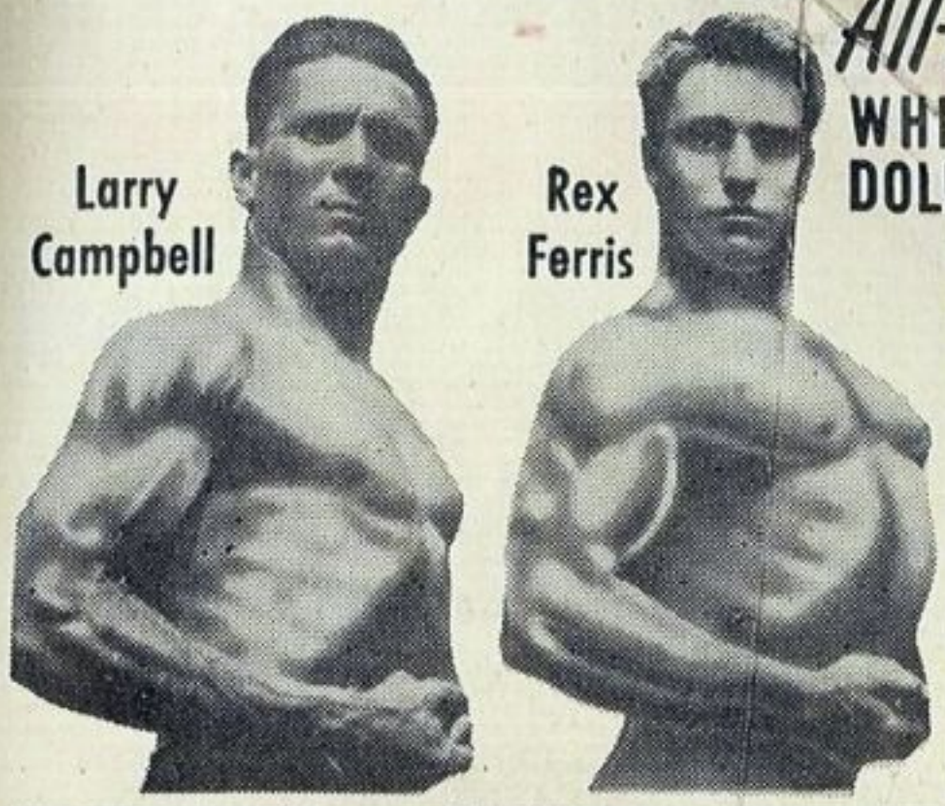
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